

ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION NEWS

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P.O. BOX 1419 NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 02840

Winter, 1988-89 Number 7

DIPRETE WANTS TO SAVE ROSE ISLAND

At a press conference in Bristol on September 14, 1988, Governor Edward D. DiPrete announced his intentions to protect three landmark waterfront properties which are in danger of being developed. Along with Black Point and part of the Haffenreffer property in Bristol, Rose Island was specifically named!

Citizens to Protect Rose Island, Save The Bay and other environmental and waterfront groups are hoping that the Governor's \$50 million bond issue will be passed in 1989 to protect the state's coast, as well as public access to it. The money would provide funds to purchase AT CURRENT FAIR MARKET VALUE those 15-or-so-acres of Rose Island which were bought by the CMTS Partnership for \$27,500 back in 1969. We have learned that the State has hired an independent appraiser to determine what that "fair market value" amounts to. It has also been reported that negotiations between the state and CMTS are going smoothly.

First, the bond proposal must get through the General Assembly intact, and then be approved by the public at the polls. (It could possibly be on a special ballot as soon as June.) Keep your fingers crossed.



GOVERNOR EDWARD D. DiPRETE (left) chats with Bob Bendick and others at a press conference in Bristol where DiPrete announced the state's intention to acquire all of Rose Island as part of the Bay Islands Park System.

DELIGHTED with their first-hand look at the lighthouse project, trustees (from left to right) Donald Christ, Noreen Drexel, and Peter McBean of the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust get ready for ride back to Newport with Curt Bunting, Bruce Bartlett and Chris Zepp.



RESTORATION GRANTS AWARDED

RILF was happily blessed with two large grants this summer totaling \$78,500 which exceeded our fundraising goal for 1988 by \$3,500, although not all of it was in hand at the end of the year, and may not be for some time.

In August, we were notified by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission that they were recommending us for a \$21,500 matching grant from the National Park Service. Then that amount was more than matched by a generous grant of \$57,000 from the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust.

Added to the many contributions we have received to date, these grants will allow us to finish the exterior of the building, to completely finish the second floor keepers' quarters, to establish the first floor as a museum, to install a septic field and to clean up the grounds--hopefully, in time for the lighthouse bicentennial celebrations scheduled for 1989.

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On Friday, September 23, Trustees from the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust, Mrs. John Drexel, III and Mrs. Elizabeth Morris Smith, along with Countess Anthony Szapary and Mayor Robert McKenna attended a well-publicized check presentation ceremony at the lighthouse. (Newport This Week's September 29, 1988 cover story was entitled "The Lighthouse Success Story".)

The McBean Trust funds have been our mainstay throughout the fall and have produced a thrilling change in the appearance of the lighthouse. (Unfortunately, the red tape associated with the federal funds will probably delay receipt of that money for many more months to come.) Nevertheless, in anticipation of receiving these funds, we have been able to make the commitment to restore the second floor mansard roof to its 1912 appearance with colored, hexagonal, real slate shingles--a project we had not anticipated being able to do for some time, but with all the exterior work being done, is obviously much more practical to do now.

At this point, we need our members and friends more than ever to provide the necessary cash flow to keep the restoration work at the lighthouse moving along. Then, as the public continues to support the Foundation through memberships, gifts, contributions and memorials, and as people volunteer their time, the work at the lighthouse and its surrounding grounds will continue to evolve.

Future projects might include rebuilding the boathouse which once stood on the south beach, replacing the boardwalk and rail that used to go around the top of the lighthouse wall and possibly restoring Fort Hamilton's walls and breastwork. Then there are the gardens, chicken coop and the fog horn building....



Keeping our lighthouse alive in the present gives us all a tangible link to an important part of our maritime past. Therefore, we know it is not enough to simply restore the lighthouse, it must also be lived in, maintained, and visited regularly. We look forward to your continued support to reach these goals!

KEEPER SEARCH POSTPONED

Last year we formulated a time schedule to install a greywater septic field along with a composting toilet at the lighthouse, then during the fall, to hire keepers who would live at the lighthouse and complete much of the restoration work over the winter. Unfortunately, it became necessary to postpone the search for keepers until the spring of 1989 because of the year-long delay in getting DEM's approval for a variance for our septic field from their I.S.D.S. Division. The next step will be to get approval from the state's Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC).

The problem is that we cannot install a septic field without these permits and cannot have keepers living there until there is a septic field to handle wastes. Given the delays so far, we plan to renew the search for live-in keepers only after these permits are in hand. And so it goes....



WE'LL DEEPLY MISS SEEING PIERRE GUILMETTE's smiling face (second from right). Pete was unfortunately killed in an automobile accident in Newport a few days after this photo was taken, which shows Curt Bunting, Chris Zepp and DEM's Mark Boucher setting up to survey the location of our proposed septic field.

A surveyor by trade, Pete proved a very good friend of the lighthouse by generously donating many hours of his time, both in his office at the Guillemette Corporation, as well as on Rose Island, to champion the cause of designing and locating our septic field to meet state requirements. We will miss him dearly.



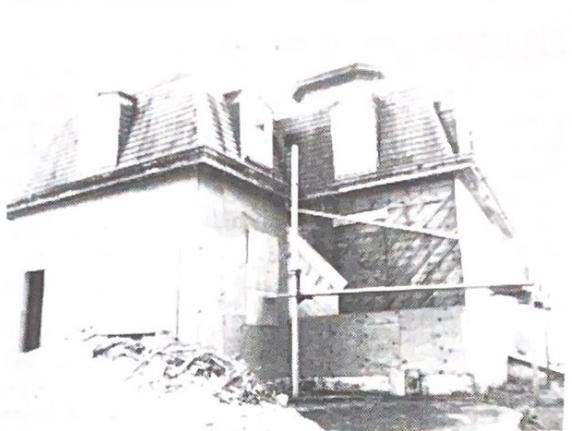
STATE HISTORICAL ARCHITECT Martha Goodwin carefully examines building details on old photograph and discusses possible design changes with Curt Bunting. Originally, the 1940's period was approved for the restoration, but photographs supplied by Paul Steadman have provided enough information for the state to approve our going back even further to the 1912 period, with some slight modifications to make the building stronger and more weather-resistant.



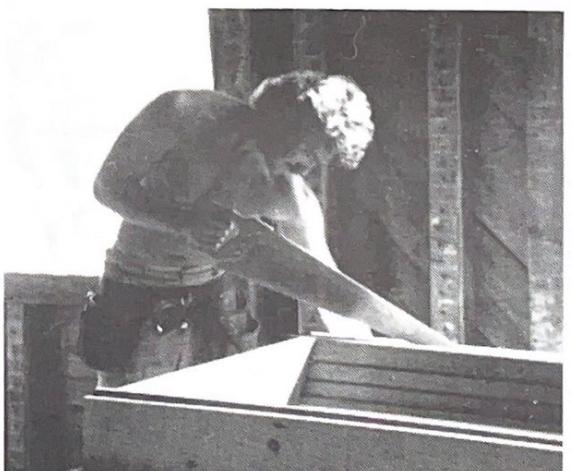
BUILDING IT RIGHT. First floor window detail from 1912 period is fastened with bronze nails, as are the clapboards throughout the building.



SECOND FLOOR WINDOWS sport new period decoration. They get primed and fitted with new copper tops before they are installed and exposed to the elements.



AS THE LIGHTHOUSE TURNS... (above) new plywood sheathing provides smooth surface and strength as it covers the original sheathing planks and is then covered with Tyvek building paper. Windows, cornerboards and clapboards were put on next (below) and the mansard roof stripped of its wood shingles in preparation for the gutter replacement and the installation of a new real slate roof.



IN GREAT FORM Bob Zeigler trims window casing for perfect fit on an obviously warm day last Fall.

250 ATTEND CLAMBAKE FUNDRAISER

The August 5 clambake turned out to be a great success, both in terms of the amount of money raised and the numbers of people fed. Through combined volunteer efforts and donations of food, supplies, beer and wine, we fed 250 people and cleared more than \$2,500 to go towards renovating the lighthouse.

Special thanks to volunteers who signed up ahead of time and knew, more or less, what they were getting into, like Sam and Bobbie Baugh, Joe Davis, Lucia de Leiris, Betsy and Dan de Leiris, Richard Griffiths, Paul Johnson, Emily Johnson, Ruth Kiker, Pro and Mary Lyon, Kristina Murzyn, Jon Powers, Jane Scott, and Paula Weindel. We also thank the many people who spontaneously pitched in and helped with serving and with clean-up.

After five years of clambakes, it is most heartwarming to see so many of the same local suppliers' names on our thank you lists. Their continued support means a lot to us, for without their help from the very beginning, the lighthouse might not be in our hands today.

Therefore, for their continued encouragement and support, we give special thanks to Ron Fatulli of Aquidneck Lobster Company for the donation of live lobsters; Ron Ackman of Oldport Marine Services for launch services; Kay Atkins whose calligraphy has graced our invitations, posters and tickets; Chris Barlow, who has been our bakemaster for the past five years; Dave Kolator, supplier of home-grown mussels from Blue Gold Sea Farm; the Chase family who grow the very, very best corn in the world at their farm in Portsmouth; and David Ray and Brian Halloran of The Clarke Cooke House who have given us island-grown salad supplies from "Farmlands" in Portsmouth.

Other regulars we are grateful to for everything from bread and butter to soda and wine, ice, and tables include Kevin Callahan of The White Horse Tavern, John and Mary Philcox of LeBistro, The Mooring, Treadway Inn, Eastern Ice folks, Crest Farm, Clipper Seafood, Bucci's Liquors, 5th Ward Liquor, Aidinoff's, Rum Runner Liquors, Wellington Sq. Liquors, Thames Street Liquors, and Vickers Liquors.

This year our expenses were decreased, thanks to the live lobster donation from Paul Sullivan of the Sullivan Organization. In addition, we also give special thanks to the Hope Brewing Corporation which donated all the beer for this year's clambake with the appropriate sentiment "Hope-is-Brewing for Rose Island"--what a charm!

We also appreciated the grass mowing efforts of Ray Walters and Chris Zepp which produced a gently sloping lawn by the lighthouse on which to spread our picnic blankets this year. Thanks to all for helping make the clambake such a great party!

PLEASE NOTE: Because the clambake is our most popular fundraiser and is always sold out, WE GIVE OUR MEMBERS THE FIRST CHANCE TO BUY TICKETS by mailing them special notices at least a week before the general public is allowed to buy tickets. Therefore, to receive this and other advance mailings, we hope you will make sure your membership is up to date.



LAST OF THE STALWART NEW YEAR'S DAY PICNICKERS warm up for the boat ride back to Newport. They are (left to right) Carey de Bethune, Christian Davis, Skip Davis, Chris Barlow, Trudy Coxe, Emily Johnson and Ginny Baldwin.

FUNDRAISERS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE IRS

This year the IRS is asking all non-profit organizations to explain more clearly to their supporters what portion of membership and support payments are considered to be tax-deductible. We have been advised that membership payments in all categories are fully tax-deductible, however, that is not the case for fundraisers and special events like the vacation raffle and the clambake.

According to the IRS, to figure the bottom line, one must ask, "what is the market value of what I received?" While that market value is not deductible, anything paid above that amount is considered to be a gift and, therefore, is deductible. Specifically, the IRS says that no portion of a raffle ticket is tax deductible because the market value of the chance to win is the full amount you paid for it.

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On the other hand, the tax-deductibility of a ticket for a fundraising event is determined by subtracting the market value of the event from the price of the ticket.

For example, the market value of our clam-bake can be figured at \$12. This includes \$5 for the round-trip launch ride and \$7 for a comparable informal, family-style lobster dinner. Thus, \$8 of each \$20 ticket is tax-deductible as a gift.

While in the past we have indicated that "contributions are deductible within legal limits," in the future we will endeavour to more clearly indicate what those legal limits are.



MUSEUM FURNISHINGS REPORT

Quite fortunately last Fall Wanton Chase helped us locate the very same oak kitchen side piece that his grandparents (Charles and Christina Curtis) had at the lighthouse until 1918. We were very pleased that it's present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Soares of Middletown, have offered to donate it back for the lighthouse museum! What a great start!



LINE-UP OF GRANDCHILDREN of past keepers include Wanton Chase of Newport, Paul Steadman of Long Island, and Charlotte Olsen of Barrington. They are searching through a turn-of-the-century Sears Catalog to identify some of the items we'll be looking for to include in the lighthouse museum.

Wayne Wheeler of the U.S. Lighthouse Society in San Francisco has promised us some official lightkeeping goodies when we are ready to open, and we have received a nice collection of lights, and lenses along with other equipment and clothing from Captain Greg Birra. In addition, Kristine Stuart has offered her own grandmother's oil/coal cook stove for the kitchen.

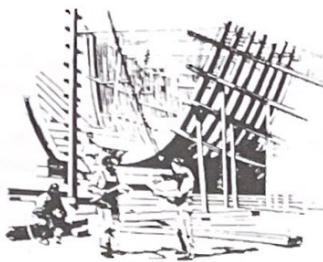
Some of the other items (from the early 1900's or earlier) for which we're on the lookout, include kerosene table and wall lamps, various pieces of oak furniture for the kitchen, living room, dining room and bedrooms, one double brass bed and 3 or 4 simple metal beds, plus linens and quilts.

The music room was, at one time or another, home to a small pump organ and an upright player piano, either of which would add greatly to the collection.

If you would like to donate furniture or wish to earmark your contribution to furnish the museum, please call Charlotte Johnson at 847-4454.



ENJOYING THE WARMTH of hot coffee and a fire in the woodburning stove, regulars Jeff Skelley, Joe Davis, Bob Zeigler and Chris Barlow take a break in the newly-remodeled pump house "Peacock Room."

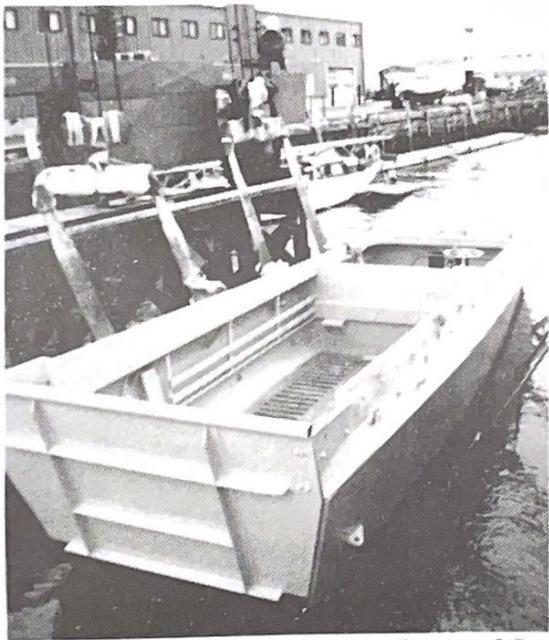


MEET "ELSIE OF ROSE ISLAND"

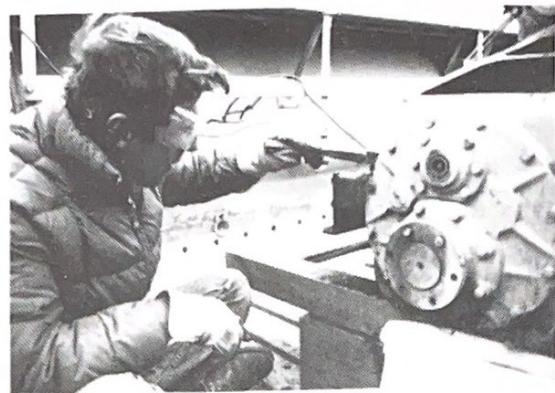
The problem was how to get thirty tons of rock and gravel out to Rose Island for a greywater septic field. The practical solution was to buy this surplus landing craft for vehicles and personnel (LCVP). Looking like a 36-foot long shoe box, the boat can be driven right up to the beach. When her front gate is lowered, a small truck, trailer or backhoe can be driven off.

We're calling her "Elsie of Rose Island" (after her initials for Landing Craft) but, given her shape and the job she's intended to do, we don't object to the cow association, either, as she'll be doing many a "milk run" with heavy equipment and supplies!

Launched on October 28 at Newport Offshore and finished at Oldport Marine Services, "Elsie" is berthed for the winter at Goat Island. The current plan is to sell her after we have finished with our major hauling of machinery and materials. Anyone interested in purchase or a lease can contact Curt Bunting at 846-4198.



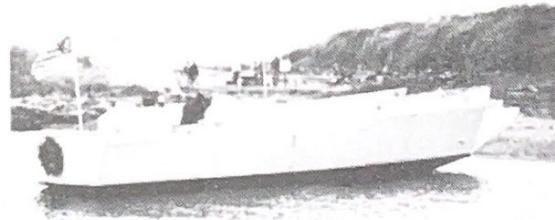
AXEL WEIDERMANN carefully launches "Elsie of Rose Island" at Newport Offshore.



"ELSIE'S" ORIGINAL ENGINE gets cleaning and a new coat of paint from Jeff Skelley.



RON ACKMAN cleans up a weld on "Elsie's" light staff.



CHRISTMAS WREATH and proper ensign adorn "Elsie's" stern as Joe Davis lowers front gate onto the beach for a pickup at Rose Island.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

The top line of your mailing label indicates your membership status. First, it shows your account name (a 10-character alphabetical code name by which the computer sorts). Next is your current membership category, the year you first became a member and, finally, when your membership expires or expired. NOTE: Memberships for this fiscal year run from July 1, 1988 to June 30, 1989.

The full amount of your membership in any category is considered tax-deductible, since there is no tangible value for the benefits we offer. Specifically, while it is under construction, admission at the lighthouse is free, and there is no charge for our newsletter. Thus, there is no taxable benefit for belonging to our Foundation.

What we do offer our members is the great satisfaction of supporting our efforts to restore and maintain a significant historical landmark which was in danger of being lost forever. So if your label ends with an -88, or less, we hope you will take this opportunity to renew for 1989 by using the form below.

If your address has changed, if you have any questions or believe the information on your label to be incorrect, please call Charlotte Johnson at 847-4454.



JOE DAVIS and Chris Barlow carry a 16-foot-long beam weighing about 200 pounds intended to replace one of the rotted sills. So far, a total of 11 tons of materials have been hand carried by workers to the lighthouse!



A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

What is in a name? Well, for one thing, it's big business these days in the mailing list industry. Some enterprising list house has converted The Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation to the status of an individual. We now receive junk mail for "Ms. Rose I. Light."

7

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation for the year ending June 30, 1989 in the following category:

\$5 Individual \$25 Business \$250 Supporting
 \$10 Family \$100 Contributing \$500 Founding

In addition, I would like to make a contribution of \$ _____

I would like to offer my services and/or materials as follows: _____

Gifts in addition to membership dues will be credited to the lighthouse renovation program. Contributions to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation are deductible within legal limits for U.S. Income Tax purpose. Please mail your check to the Rose Island L/H Foundation, P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840. Thank You!